

wife of Hisham Fawzi, and their children, Kareem and Sarah.

Message on the Observance of the Anniversary of the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

April 4, 2002

Today, as we mark the 34th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I join my fellow Americans in remembering Dr. King and renewing his call for equality and justice for all our citizens.

Dr. King was a man of deep faith who dedicated his life to a crucial and just cause that changed this Nation. He graciously and peacefully called for our country to abide by the principles of unity, equality, and racial justice for every citizen regardless of race, creed, or background. For too brief a time, our Nation benefited from his work, yet his dream lives on in the hearts of a new generation. I join all citizens in recognizing this important American and his legacy of freedom, equality, and justice for all.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation—National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, 2002

April 4, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our Nation's history, patriotic Americans have responded to the call to defend our freedoms. During war and peace, American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines have stood vigilant, prepared, and willing to put themselves in harm's way to protect our Nation. We owe the liberties we have today to their brave service.

Americans who bear the title "Former Prisoner of War" are national heroes. Their service to our country placed them in dire circumstances, causing their capture and imprisonment by our country's enemies. These

heroes suffered great adversity and sacrificed much for freedom and for the future of America.

This year, as we remember our former prisoners of war (POWs), we also mark the 60th anniversary of the Bataan Death March. Many of the American soldiers who defended Corregidor, until they were overwhelmed by enemy forces, never made it to prison camp. Many were killed outright, and many died after enduring unspeakable horrors. For those who survived the march, the war entered a new phase: the struggle against their captors. By enduring tremendous hardships and humiliations, and in gallantly supporting their fellow prisoners, these Americans exemplified the best of our Nation's spirit.

The families of POWs also spent long, lonely years without knowing whether they would ever see their loved ones again. As we remember our former POWs, we must also remember their families and friends who suffered along with them. Our Nation must never forget their courage.

Today, former POWs from across America work to assist their former comrades and their families to cope with the painful memories of the suffering that life as a POW inflicted. These courageous heroes have important and powerful stories to share, which can and should serve as an inspiration to succeeding generations. Through these efforts, former POWs have established a simple but enduring legacy, which ensures that their heroism and that of their fallen or missing comrades will not be forgotten.

On National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, we recognize the sacrifice of our former POWs and remember with honor their heroism. We also pledge that we will work to ensure that future generations will understand and appreciate the courage and contributions of these selfless heroes.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2002, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I call upon all the people of the United States to join me in remembering

former American prisoners of war by honoring the memory of their sacrifices. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

NOTE: At the time of publication, this Proclamation had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a Proclamation number. An original was not available for the verification of the text of this Proclamation.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 30

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had telephone conversations with King Abdullah II of Jordan, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, and Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, President of the European Union, concerning the situation in the Middle East. He then had a conference call with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

March 31

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush attended an Easter Sunday service at the Canaan Baptist Church in Crawford. Joining them were their daughter, Jenna, the President's father and mother, former President George H.W. Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush, and Mrs. Bush's mother, Jenna Welch.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

April 1

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings.

The White House announced that the President will welcome NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson for a meeting and dinner on April 9 to discuss cooperation against terrorism and preparations for the upcoming November NATO summit in Prague, the Czech Republic.

April 2

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia concerning the situation in the Middle East and other issues.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Media, PA. Later, he traveled to Philadelphia, PA. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

April 3

The President declared a major disaster in Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on March 17–20.

April 4

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, President of the European Union, concerning the situation in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, arriving in the evening.

The President declared a major disaster in Kentucky and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on March 17–21.

April 5

In the morning, the President had a CIA briefing. He then had a telephone conversation with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey concerning relief efforts in Afghanistan and the situation in the Middle East.